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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER14 December 1981
1230

BRIEFING NOTE: POLAND

We have little information beyond that reported in our Briefing Note of 0730, 14 December. The regime radio station claims the situation in Warsaw is calm, with public transportation running normally. [REDACTED]

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We have no reports of violence, beyond police use of water cannon yesterday afternoon against the crowd that had gathered outside Solidarity's Warsaw headquarters. The police seized the headquarters during the night, this time apparently permanently. Rural Solidarity's Warsaw headquarters are also closed. [REDACTED]

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According to Solidarity leaflets distributed yesterday, its factory committees were to begin meeting this morning. It may take some time for the results of this activity to become clear, if indeed many of these bodies have been able to reconstitute themselves. It now seems clear that a large number of activists, probably in the thousands, were arrested, and communications between committees will have to take place principally by courier. We have no further word on the national strike committee that was reportedly attempting to organize in Gdansk. The success of the Gdansk effort may be key as to whether Solidarity is able to mount a counter to the regime's enactment of a "state of war." [REDACTED]

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Archbishop Glemp may have used a brief meeting with Walesa yesterday afternoon to urge the union leader not to defy the regime, and the Primate's advice will have considerable weight. Walesa's senior advisors, Celenski and Geremek, apparently are being detained. According to a senior church official, a regime delegation including Politburo member Barcikowski personally informed the Primate an hour beforehand that martial law would be declared. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reports that Walesa is under some form of government detention. [REDACTED]

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We have no statements so far by the Polish government or Western creditors on the treatment of Polish debt. Today Warsaw is due to pay about \$500 million to cover interest arrearages to Western banks as a condition for rescheduling 1981 principal payments on private debt. The government's moves on Sunday should not have any impact on whether the Poles can pay the banks, but if Warsaw cannot make the payment, a declaration of default now seems more likely. [REDACTED]

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The Soviet central press gave front page coverage today to the announcement of martial law. They also published the full text of Jaruzelski's speech, suggesting Moscow's satisfaction that forceful action has been taken. [REDACTED]

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There has been a limited Soviet military reaction to the situation in Poland. Since Sunday one Soviet naval guided missile patrol boat conducted surveillance operations along the Polish coastline and another unidentified Soviet ship has been located between the coast and Bornholm Island. [REDACTED]

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Source: [REDACTED]

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